

Domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault cross ethnic, racial, age, gender, religious, national origin, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic lines to affect millions of Americans each year.



Fortunately, Safe at Home participants can use a free state post office box address instead of a home address to help them maintain privacy when receiving first-class mail, opening a bank account, completing a confidential name change, filling out certain government documents, registering to vote, getting a driver license, enrolling a child in school, and more.

I am proud to have authored some of the laws that make Safe at Home the national model for address confidentiality programs. As Secretary of State, I am honored to continue my longtime commitment to protecting the rights of victims who deserve security and peace of mind as they rebuild their lives.

I hope you will take time to explore this brochure to see if Safe at Home may benefit you or someone you know.

Every Californian should feel and be safe at home.

Debra Bowen
Secretary of State



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Safe at Home

Address Confidentiality Program



What is Safe at Home?

Safe at Home is an address confidentiality program administered by the California Secretary of State's office. Since 1999, Safe at Home has offered safety and security to thousands of women, men, and children escaping abuse.

Once you qualify for the free program, Safe at Home assigns a Sacramento post office box that you can use as your official address. State and local government agencies are required to accept the Safe at Home address on your identification card; however, private entities and the federal government are not.



Who can benefit?

If you are living in California and your address is unknown to the abuser or stalker, you may be able to participate in Safe at Home. You must be a survivor of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault, or a reproductive healthcare employee, patient, or volunteer. A Safe at Home enrolling agency can help determine if you qualify for the program.

What services are available?

Confidential Mail-Forwarding

First-class mail is securely handled at the Secretary of State's office and forwarded to your confidential home address in California.

Agent for Service of Process

You can direct court-related correspondence to be served to the Secretary of State's office in Sacramento then forwarded by certified mail to your confidential address.

Confidential Name Change

You are eligible to petition a California court for a confidential legal name change. It is important to talk with a legal advisor before proceeding with a confidential name change.

Confidential Voter Registration

You can vote by mail and protect your voter record from campaigns, the media, and the general public by completing a confidential voter registration card.

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Records Suppression

The California DMV can suppress your driver license and vehicle registration records if you have a clean driving record and no criminal history.

Confidentiality for Children

Safe at Home can provide an additional layer of protection for children, too. You can notify your child's school of your participation in Safe at Home and prevent sharing of information about your child.

How do I enroll?

If you are interested in participating in Safe at Home, make an appointment with one of the 200 designated enrolling agencies in California. For a list of enrolling agencies in your area, go to www.sos.ca.gov/safeathome or call toll-free (877) 322-5227. TTY (916) 651-1304.

Requirements for enrollment depend on the type of crime you experienced. Please bring all documents related to the crime to your appointment at the enrolling agency. The enrolling agency advocate will explain more about the Safe at Home program and assist you with completing an application. If your application is approved, you will receive a packet of materials that includes an enrollment certificate and an official Safe at Home identification card for use in business and government transactions that require a mailing or street address.



“I'd like to thank everyone affiliated with this exceptional program for the peace of mind and safety it has afforded me for the past four-plus years.”

— Safe at Home participant